

**CCFC Core Stakeholder Meeting
May 21, 2008
12:00 – 2:00 pm
COG Offices**



ATTENDEES:

Dave Navey
Larry Lane
Robert Taylor
Grady Truett
Laura Mundell
Marcie Smith
Roger Cable
Jason Wager
Sarah Niess

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Unfortunately Jim Mellon from GM had to cancel his appearance at the meeting. The group took the time at the beginning of the meeting to have a networking session.

Jason began the meeting by noting the handouts given to each member: the Ethanol Myths & Facts fact sheet from the Department of Energy and the news announcement of the CFAT funding recipients.

DISCUSSIONS:

AFVi Conference: (Jason)

Jason gave a little history on the conference – DOE’s former involvement and now the focus moving more towards private companies. Based on Jason’s experience he felt that the sessions did not dig deep into the technical and policy issues facing the industry. The best part of the conference was the Exhibit Hall and talking to vendors – some of the vehicles on display included new diesel vehicles and the fuel-cell powered Equinox. GM expects the Equinox to be available for same mark up as hybrid in 2011. CNG is a theme emerging nationwide. Jason has touched based with players in region and wants to pull together a meeting with all those interested. CCFC would host. Larry pointed out that dedicated CNG vehicles get much better fuel economy than flex fuel vehicles. Ford and Chevy vehicles had dedicated vehicles but stopped their production in the late 1990’s.

Roundtable:

Sarah/Jason:

Brochure – Sarah passed around a draft of the brochure that CCFC is working on and asked for people to let her know how many copies each CSG member would like to receive.

Ethanol Workshop – July 31st - thoughts on speakers, topics are welcome

Truck Stop Electrification Project - Jason gave background on the project and the successful bidder, CabAire. COG is currently in contract negotiations with CabAire.

Laura: Hydrogen bus manufacturer is close to announcing its location for a plant – our region is on the short list. Also, the Economic Development Commission is in the process of mapping all companies related to automotive parts – Laura would like to send list to group for input.

Robert: He is conducting a CNG analysis of local governments using CNG across the state. Robert distributed an email summarizing his discussions. In Charlotte, zones for dump trucks go out for competitive bid and they are reviewing the possibility of one zone using CNG. Clean Energy agreed to review zones. Should also be in touch with Piedmont NG. Some discussion of study evaluating fuel economy of filling tires with nitrogen instead of air.

Dave: Gave review of Mobile CARE conference. CLT Trucking is in process of building new location for Sterling and Freightliner facility. Dave proposed to make building LEED certified and use alternative fuels in fleet (12 vehicles). On the personal side, Dave is thinking about getting the GX.

Larry: UNCC has met the Petroleum Displacement Plan as mandated by the state (20% reduction between 2005 and 2010). Done it by using 61 electric vehicles, E85 and E10, and right sizing vehicles. Not buying anymore pure gasoline vehicles. Next challenge is dealing with high prices of electric vehicles.

Grady: Continue to make biodiesel. Plans are to retire and do larger system at landfill to produce biodiesel and work with methane. Have all of the tanks that will be needed. Working with Senator Hoyle for funds for building. Like to convert to make methanol – have located all the equipment needed for this. Also use methane as propane injector to increase fuel economy.

Marcie: Landfill project has gotten very in depth. Appalachian State is doing a master site plan for an energy park at the landfill as well as a business plan. Seeking federal grants. Sorting out leasing land issues. Ideal businesses would use methane and divert waste. Also use glycerin from biodiesel process. Biggest obstacle is funding.

Roger: Looking for a new CNG conversion kit. Have a lot of talent with mechanics but need support and parts. The City currently has 2 hybrid Escapes and plans to buy 9 more. The City had 31 capable NG vehicles and retired 15 of these. Their only dedicated vehicle is the bus. Bifuel trucks now run on gas. Need to have larger tanks for operators to cooperate with using CNG.

Action Plan:

Sarah distributed the 2008 Action Plan for the coalition and an Executive Summary. The revised plan incorporates input from the group at the March visioning meeting. Given time constraints will seek input at July meeting.

